

IN THE CLAIMS

1-4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently amended) A QoS (Quality of Service) control method for a packet communication system, comprising:

a mode selecting step for selecting one of a first mode and a second mode;

based on a packet communication, performing the selected mode;

wherein said first mode comprises a first step for reading out a flow condition from an entry table, and a second step for making a decision about a coincidence between header information of an input packet and said flow condition;

said first mode executes a QoS control based on a result of said second step, and

said second mode skips said first step and said second step; ~~and~~

~~based on a packet communication performing the selected mode.~~

6. (Currently amended) A QoS (Quality of Service) control method according to claim 5, wherein said second mode includes the step of reading out data corresponding to said header information indicating packet priority of the input packet from a referring priority information table, so as to execute QoS control based on the data.

7. (Previously presented) A QoS (Quality of Service) control method according to claim 5, wherein said selecting step includes the step of making a selection for each packet based on the port number to which said packet is related.

8. (Previously presented) A packet communication system for transmitting a packet, said packet having header information including address information, a port information, and a DS (Differentiated Services) value, comprising:

- a plurality of input lines;

- a plurality of output lines;

- a switching unit connected to said input lines and said output lines, said switching unit outputting said packet from an input line of said input lines to an output line of said output lines; and

- a control unit for switching a mode to apply to the packet among a first mode, a second mode, and a third mode based on the header information,

- said first mode being a mode that decides priority of the packet by at least one of the address information and the port information,

- said second mode being a mode that decides priority of the packet by the DS value, and

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said third mode being a mode that decides to rewrite the DS value, by at least one of the address information and the port information.